

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim1 (Canceled).

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Claim 2 (Currently Amended): A picture processing apparatus, comprising:  
determining means for determining whether or not an input video signal is a signal of  
which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of an effective picture area; and  
picture processing means for extracting a signal of the effective picture area from the  
input video signal, adjusting the picture size using the signal of the effective picture area, and  
combining the picture when the determined result of said determining means represents that  
the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of  
the effective picture area.[[.]])

~~The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 1,~~  
wherein said picture processing means performs a multiple-picture displaying process  
for adjusting the picture sizes of a plurality of input video signals of a plurality of sources and  
combining pictures corresponding to the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of  
sources interpolated at proper timings so that desired picture sizes are obtained corresponding  
to the display positions on a background screen.

Claim 3 (Original): The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2,  
wherein said picture processing means performs a reduced picture displaying process  
for reducing the picture size of the input video signal and combining the reduced picture on  
the background screen.

Claim 4 (Original): The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2,

wherein said determining means determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area corresponding to information of an interface to which the input video signal is input.

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Claim 5 (Original): The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said determining means determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area corresponding to information superimposed with or added to the input video signal.

Claim 6 (Original): The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said determining means detects a non signal portion of the input video signal and determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area.

Claim 7 (Original): The picture processing apparatus as set forth in claim 2, wherein said determining means determines whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area corresponding to information contained in a transport stream that is transmitted.

Claim 8 (Canceled).

Claim 9 (Currently Amended): A picture processing method, comprising the steps of:  
(a) determining whether or not an input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of an effective picture area;  
(b) extracting a signal of the effective picture area from the input video signal,

adjusting the picture size using the signal of the effective picture area, and  
combining the picture when the determined result at step (a) represents that the input  
video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the  
effective picture area.[[.]])

~~The picture processing method as set forth in claim 8,~~  
wherein step (b) is performed by adjusting the picture sizes of a plurality of input video signals of a plurality of sources and combining pictures corresponding to the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources interpolated at proper timings so that desired picture sizes are obtained corresponding to the display positions on a background screen.

Claim 10 (Original): The picture processing method as set forth in claim 9,  
wherein step (b) is performed by reducing the picture size of the input video signal and combining the reduced picture on the background screen.

Claim 11 (Original): The picture processing method as set forth in claim 9,  
wherein step (a) is performed corresponding to information of an interface to which the input video signal is input.

Claim 12 (Original): The picture processing method as set forth in claim 9,  
wherein step (a) is performed corresponding to information superimposed with or added to the input video signal.

Claim 13 (Original): The picture processing method as set forth in claim 9,

wherein step (a) is performed by detecting a non-signal portion of the input video signal and determining whether or not the input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area.

Claim 14 (Original): The picture processing method as set forth in claim 9, wherein step (a) is performed corresponding to information contained in a transport stream that is transmitted.

Claim 15 (New): A picture processing apparatus configured to process and combine a plurality of input video signals from a plurality of sources on a display, comprising:

an input selecting section configured to select the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources to be displayed;

a determining section operative to identify whether or not an input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of an effective picture area, the determining section having:

an ID detecting portion configured to detect a picture format of the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources,

an additional information detecting portion configured to detect additional information superimposed with the plurality of video signals of the plurality of sources,

a non-signal detecting portion configured to compare a level of each of the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources with a predetermined level; and

a picture processor responsive to the determining section and configured to extract a signal of the effective picture area, and combine an extracted signal on the display when a

determined result of the determining section represents that an input video signal is a signal of which a non-picture portion is added to the periphery of the effective picture area.

Claim 16 (New): The picture processing apparatus as in Claim 15,  
wherein the picture processor interpolates at proper timings the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources to adjust image sizes of the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources and combine images corresponding to the plurality of input video signals of the plurality of sources on the display.

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